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ist, but not without cause ; and were it not that party politics present such an absorbing interest to many of our best minds, and that the votes of Romanists are of so much importance to the success of parties and of candidates for office, we doubt not that all sincere and reflecting Protestants would be aroused to a sense of peril by the wily, perpetual, and unretreating aggressions of Romanism upon the liberties of our republic. The chapters on "The Bible in our Public Schools," though written before the late outbreak in Boston, are on that very account the more timely, as they consider the questions at issue on large and general principles, without the local complications in which recent events might have involved the discussion. Mr. Clark's book will be read with strong interest and sympathy by those who already apprehend great and enduring evil from the Papal power in this country ; it ought to be read candidly and thoughtfully by those who imagine either that Romanism is on the decline among us, or that it can grow without jeopardy to our institutions and our national well-being.

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24. — *The Convalescent*. By N. PARKER WILLIS. New York : Charles Scribner. 1859. 12mo. pp. 456.

THIS is a volume made up of letters, which first appeared in the Home Journal, and which were written in part at Idlewild, in part from various resting-places on excursions for health or amusement. They contain almost nothing — except here and there a glorious landscape or a moonlight scene of transcendent beauty — which is not either strictly personal, or which has not been often told before. Yet therein lies the special beauty, we may say the rare fascination, of the book ; for, from the very paucity of its non-personal contents, it brings us into the author's intimacy, makes us his confidants, and enriches us with the remembrance of successive conversations with one who as a poet, a humorist, a man of taste, culture, and travel, and withal possessed of many prominent and piquant idiosyncrasies, renders our intercourse with him at once exciting, entertaining, and instructive.

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25. — *Shakespeare's Legal Acquirements considered*. By JOHN, LORD CAMPBELL, LL. D., F. R. S. E. In a Letter to J. Payne Collier, Esq., F. S. A. New York : D. Appleton & Co. 1859. 12mo. pp. 146.

IN this gracefully written monograph, Lord Campbell discusses the question whether Shakespeare was at an early period of his life an

attorney's clerk. On one side we have the absence of all historical and documentary evidence in the affirmative; on the other, several years of the poet's life unaccounted for, and his frequent use, not only of general, but of technical words and phrases appertaining to the legal science. Lord Campbell has analyzed the plays with this question in view, and here presents a large array of citations which might seem to authorize an affirmative answer. Of these, there is no one, there are no half-dozen, which would establish even a probable case; but the argument is in its nature cumulative, and in its entirety has no little weight. The author declines giving a positive opinion of his own, and we are disposed to believe that his readers will for the most part be equally unwilling to affirm and to deny the alleged fact of the great dramatist's legal education. He may have been an attorney's clerk; but we doubt whether it can be proved that he was one.

- 26.—*Rambles among Words: their Poetry, History, and Wisdom.*
By WILLIAM SWINTON. New York: Charles Scribner. 1859.
12mo. pp. 302.

THIS book, though less carefully digested than Trench's volume on the "Study of Words," covers more ground, and brings to light a larger assortment of the verbal curiosities of the English language. It illustrates, with equal aptness and copiousness, the wealth of history, poetry, and wisdom that often lies in a fossil state in the origin or structure of a word. It is somewhat desultory, and sometimes repetitious, but these faults are more than neutralized by the patent evidence of the author's diligent research, careful thought, and felicitous fancy. The reader will find it never dull, often amusing, always instructive.

- 27.—*Ethel's Love-Life: a Novel.* By MARGARET J. M. SWEAT.
New York: Rudd and Carleton. 1859. 12mo. pp. 232.

THIS book is not a novel in the common sense of the term. Its form is that of a series of letters from Ethel Sunderland to her last beloved, her betrothed and expectant bridegroom. She gives him her own heart-history, in connection with her previous loves, and describes the successive stages and agencies in the development of the tenderness, strength, and depth of a true and noble woman's nature. The work is introspective in its whole character; and, while we by no means suppose that the incidents are recorded from experience, in a still pro-